

Appl. No. 10/669,910
Amdt. Dated September 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 22, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously presented): A disposable body fluid absorbent pad comprising:

a top surface facing a wearer's body;

a back surface facing away from said wearer's body;

a liquid-absorbent core interposed between said top and back surfaces and having longitudinally opposite end margin portions extending in a transverse direction and defining peripheral longitudinal edge portions of the liquid-absorbent core and transversely opposite side edge margin portions extending in a longitudinal direction and defining peripheral transverse edge portions of the liquid-absorbent core;

a front region destined to cover a wearer's belly;

a rear region destined to cover a wearer's hip;

an intermediate region destined to cover a wearer's crotch when said pad is put on said wearer's body; and

a strap extending longitudinally outward from the front region for pulling said pad in said longitudinal direction, said strap having inner fixed portions lying on and extending along a length of

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said side edge margin portions and secured to said pad on a surface facing said wearer's body and a hand-grip extending between said inner fixed portions.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The pad according to claim 1, wherein said strap comprises:

a first strap attached to one of said side edge margin portions so as to extend outward from said end margin of said front region in said longitudinal direction; and

a second strap is attached to said other side edge margin portion so as to extend outward from said end margin of said front region in said longitudinal direction,

said first strap having an inner fixed portion lying on one of said side edge margin portions and secured to said pad on said surface facing said wearer's body, an outer fixed portion lying on said other side edge margin portion and secured to said pad on said surface facing away from said wearer's body and a hand-grip extending between said inner fixed portion and said outer fixed portion and,

said second strap having an inner fixed portion lying on said other side edge margin portion and secured to said pad on said surface facing said wearer's body, an outer fixed portion lying on said other side edge margin portion and secured to said pad on said surface facing away from said wearer's body and a hand-grip extending between said inner fixed portion and said outer fixed portion.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The pad according to claim 2, ~~+~~, wherein said inner fixed portions of

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said straps extend from said end margin of said front region toward said end margin of said rear region along said side edge margins.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The pad according to claim 3, further comprising elastic members extending at least in said intermediate region of said side margin portions of said pad so that said elastic members are contractible in said longitudinal direction and said inner fixed portions of said straps contract in said longitudinal direction as said elastic members contract.

Claim 5 (Original): The pad according to claim 3, wherein said straps are elastically stretchable and said inner fixed portions of said straps are secured to said pad on said surface facing said wearer's body so that said inner fixed portions are contractible.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The pad according to claim 1, wherein said top surface comprises a liquid-pervious topsheet and said back surface comprises a liquid-impervious backsheet.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The pad according to claim 1, wherein a thickness dimension of said core between said top and back surfaces as measured in said intermediate region is smaller than a thickness as measured in said front and rear regions.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The pad according to claim 1, wherein a transverse dimension of

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said core between the side edge margins as measured in said intermediate region is smaller than a transverse dimension measured in said front and rear regions.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): The pad according to claim 1, wherein said pad is provided in said rear region with a tape fastener having a proximal end fixed to said pad on said surface facing away from said wearer's body in said rear region and a distal end extending outward from said end margin of said rear region in said longitudinal direction and configured to be releasably attached to said pad on said surface facing away from said wearer's body.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The pad according to claim 9, wherein said intermediate region of said pad is folded in said longitudinal direction with said top surface inside so that said front and rear regions may be placed upon each other and said distal end of said tape fastener is releasably attached to said pad on said surface facing away from said wearer's body in said front region so as to maintain said pad in a folded state.